



Coalition *for* Healthier Schools

*...providing the national platform and
the forum for environmental health at school, since 2001...*

Coordinated by Healthy Schools Network

Healthy Purchasing *for* Healthy Schools

A new national guidance memo for districts,
schools, personnel, parents and communities
webcast

August 8, 2013

Hosted by Healthy Schools Network

Healthy Purchasing for Healthy Schools

Background: The **Coalition for Healthier Schools'** collaborative and broad-based **work group on green cleaning** developed an "industry-free" online training toolkit with modules for school leaders, workers and parents, building on New York State's landmark policies on green cleaning for schools and state agencies (2005). Today 11 states require or promote the use of certified green cleaning products in schools, and state and city agencies are increasingly engaged. *Healthy Schools Network which convenes the Coalition for Healthier Schools and hosts the Coalition's work group on green cleaning, does not accept support from the chemical industry.*

Healthy buildings need to use healthy products. Today, there are many more state and city agencies and districts interested in having healthy buildings, and local schools interested in applying for the US Department of Education's voluntary Green Ribbon Schools Award. This new guidance memo can be a critical tool for finding products and equipment verified as greener and healthier, and for helping schools overcome the tidal wave of chemical industry "greenwashing" (false marketing claims) directed at them and at educational associations.

In June 2012, the Coalition conducted an interest survey of leaders and learned that many were ready to move beyond green cleaning into wider Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP). Healthy Schools Network commissioned Renee Sharp (SHARP Strategies, OR) and Alicia Culver (Responsible Purchasing Network, CA) to produce a primer on several product categories common to schools that would help reduce chemicals and save money. Core concepts were reviewed at the Coalition's annual meeting in January 2013; the first release was hosted for National Healthy Schools Day 2013.

August 2013 Back to School webcast speakers: see next slide.

In addition, the August webcast featured a general welcome and introduction by Claire Barnett, Coalition Coordinator and Executive of Healthy Schools Network; comments from Tolle Graham, Chair, Coalition work group on Communications based at MassCOSH who has done extensive work on asthma at school and in day care. The final slide covers materials provided by webcast Commentator Jerry Lamping.

Healthy Purchasing *for* Healthy Schools

Moderator: Rebecca Ruggles, Maryland Environmental Health Network

Presenter: Alicia Culver, Responsible Purchasing Network

Commentator: Jerry Lamping, award-winning school facility director
(retired)

Back to School free webcast from

Coalition *for* Healthier Schools

August 8, 2013, 1PM Eastern/10 AM Pacific

(Mute phone by pressing *6)

Coalition *for* Healthier Schools

Healthy Purchasing for Healthy Schools: A Guidance Memo

Green Cleaning + Five More Product Categories to Help Make Schools Healthier

Even the best curriculum and educators cannot succeed when students cannot concentrate, are absent from school or are uncomfortable in the classroom. One way to improve the health of the school indoor environment is to minimize the amount of toxic chemicals in products used in schools. Reducing toxic chemicals in products used in schools benefits children, teachers and custodial staff, particularly those with asthma and or other environmental sensitivities.

States and cities are increasingly seeing cost-savings from buying green and buying in bulk; schools can too! Schools can also buy on state contract.

http://healthyschools.org/documents/CHS_healthypurchasinghealthyschools.pdf

Responsible Purchasing Network



Members include:

- States
- Local governments
- Federal agencies
- Colleges and universities
- School districts
- Businesses
- Non-profits

RPN Mission

“Promote and practice responsible purchasing by identifying best practices, developing effective purchasing tools, educating the market, and using our collective purchasing power to maximize environmental stewardship, protect human health, and support local and global sustainability.”

What are Environmentally Preferable Goods & Services?

“...products and services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared to competing products and services that serve the same purpose.” (Federal EO #13423)



Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP)

**EPP =
Environment +
Price +
Performance**



Environmentally preferable purchasing means adding environmental, health and safety considerations to purchasing decisions along with traditional factors such as performance and price.

Green Products Covered in Guide



- **Cleaning Supplies**
- **Office Supplies**
- **Wall & Ceiling Paints**
- **Office Equipment**
- **Art Supplies**
- **Furniture**



Environmental Claims Increasing

- Eco-safe
- Environmentally friendly
- Earth friendly
- Earth smart
- Environmentally safe
- Environmentally preferable
- Essential non-toxic
- Practically non-toxic
- Made with non-toxic ingredients
- Degradable
- Natural
- Environmentally safe
- CFC free
- Zero primary
- Recyclable

According to the FTC:
FALSE CLAIMS



7 “Sins” of Greenwashing

Sin of Vagueness
“100% Natural”

No Proof
“Just trust us”

Irrelevance
“CFC-Free”

Hidden Trade-Off
Compostable food containers with “Teflon” coating

Fibbing
“Non-Toxic”

Lesser of Two Evils
Hybrid SUVs

Worshipping False Labels

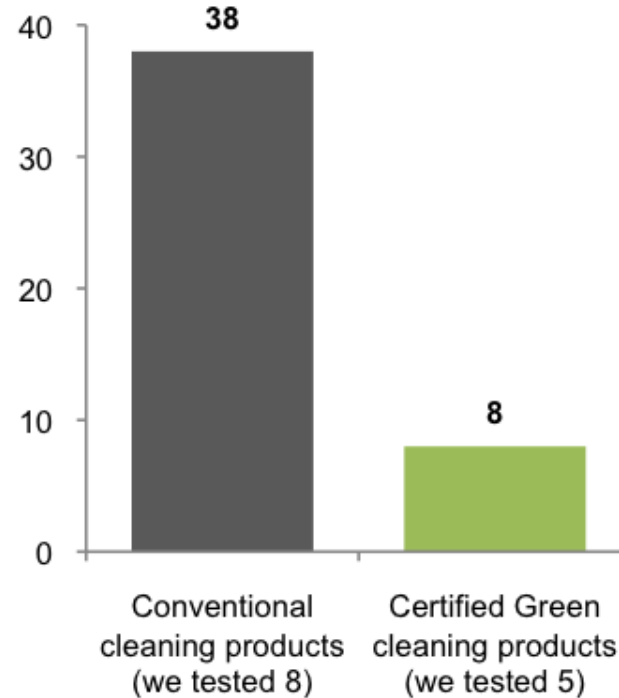


Greener School Cleaning Supplies = Fresh Air + Healthier Kids



 ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP

Average number of
air contaminants



General purpose cleaners

Green Cleaning for Healthy Schools Principles

- **Keep dirt out**
- **Use third-party certified cleaners, hand soaps and paper products**
 - Properly/accurately dilute all chemicals
- **Disinfect only when required, in high-risk areas**
 - Choose asthma-safe sanitizers/disinfectants
- **Update and maintain equipment**
 - Use microfiber mops & cloths
 - HEPA vacuums
- <http://cleaningforhealthyschools.org/>



Key Elements of a Successful Green Cleaning Program



- Establish school committee
- Evaluate current products
- Identify/pilot test safer products
- Train staff with new products
- Track success
- Phase in more green products
- Reward participating staff
- Adopt policy





Office Equipment

- **Toxic hazards: heavy metals (lead, mercury), brominated flame retardants, VOC emissions**
- **Require products to be on EPEAT Registry (Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool)**

EPEAT Procurement Specifications:

www.epeat.net/model-purchase-language/



Healthy Computing Tips

- **Never put electronics in trash**
 - ✓ **Require vendors to recycle**
 - ✓ **Look for certified recyclers (e-Stewards or R2)**

- **Turn on power management systems to capture more energy savings**



Wall & Ceiling Paints

- **Specify certified low-toxicity latex paints and coatings**
 - ✓ Green Seal
 - ✓ EcoLogo
 - ✓ Master Painters Institute Extreme Green (X-Green)
- **Certifications address performance**
- **Include “green” specs in painting and renovation contracts**
- **Require vendors to “take-back” and recycle leftover paint**



Office Supplies

- **Recycled paper**
 - ✓ $\geq 30\%$ post-consumer content
 - ✓ Virgin content certified by Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)



- **Reuse supplies before purchasing new**
- **Prohibit non-green products from contracts**



Office Supplies



- **Avoid vinyl (PVC) products**
 - ✓ Sometimes contain lead, phthalates
 - ✓ Choose PVC-free binders, paper clips, etc.

Center for Health, Environment & Justice | www.chej.org | August 2012



Back-to-School Guide to
PVC-Free School Supplies

www.chej.org/publications/PVCGuide/PVCfree2012_1.pdf

Art Supplies

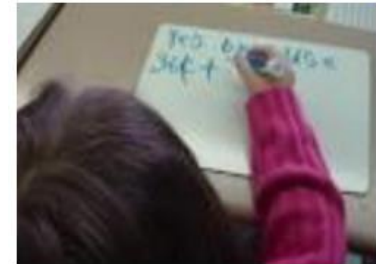
- **Multi-step screening process**

- ✓ **Look for Approved Products (AP) certified by ACMI (Art and Creative Materials Institute)**
- ✓ **Review MSDS to identify chemicals of concern**
 - **Heavy metals: lead, cadmium**
 - **Solvents: xylene, ethyl benzene, ketones**
 - **Asbestos, clay dust**



- **Avoid...**

- ✓ **Permanent markers**
- ✓ **Toxic white-board markers (choose low-odor, if needed)**
- ✓ **Products labeled: DANGER, WARNING, Flammable**



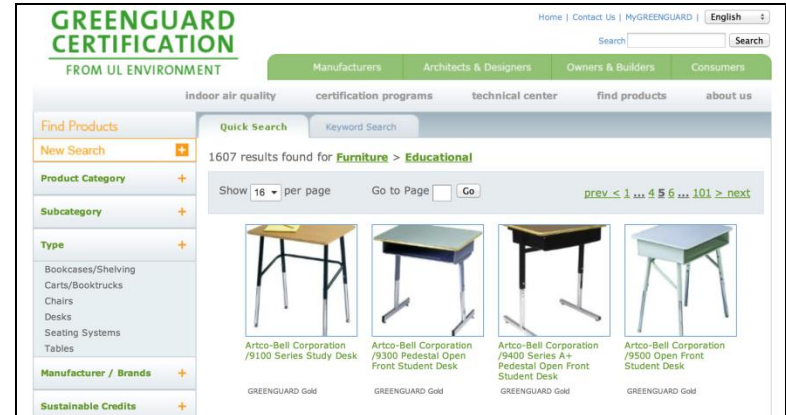
Furniture

Avoid...

- Formaldehyde (especially in particleboard)
- Brominated flame retardants
- Stain-resistant chemicals
- PVC (vinyl)
- Polyurethane foam/coatings

Look for...

- Products made of whole wood (FSC-certified), metal, glass
- Furniture certified by **GREENGUARD** (low-emitting)



Reduce Packaging Impacts

- **Prohibit unsustainable packaging**
- **Encourage vendors to use reusable and easily recyclable packaging**
- **Buy concentrated and long-lasting products**
- **Consolidate orders**



Healthy Purchasing Policy

Santa Barbara Unified School District (2011):

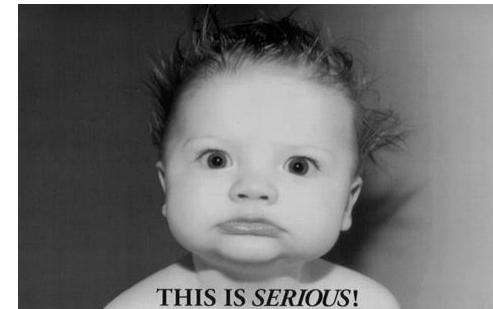
The Superintendent or designee shall promote green school practices that conserve natural resources, reduce the impact of district operations on the environment, and protect the health of students, staff and the community.



Healthy Purchasing Program Prioritization

Look for...

- **Largest potential impact**
- **Ability to meet environmental/health goals**
- **Opportunities for change
(contracts re-bid)**
- **Ease of implementation
(use existing specs and
certifications)**
- **Potential to save money/create local jobs**





Save Time: Ask Suppliers to...

- **Increase their offerings of healthy products**
- **Make them eligible for deepest discounts**
- **Accurately label all certified green products**
- **Conduct training and outreach**
- **Provide “green” spend reports**
- **Calculate environmental benefits/cost savings of purchasing their green products**

Healthy Purchasing Resources













- **Cooperative Purchasing**
 - ✓ State contracts
 - ✓ US Communities (www.gogreencommunities.org)
 - ✓ Educational & Institutional Cooperative Purchasing
 - ✓ National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO)
- Green Schools Initiative website
- National Association of Counties' *Green Purchasing Toolkit*





Responsible Purchasing Resources: For Public Agencies and Institutions

Eco-Labels	
	Biodegradable Products Institute is an organization which certifies that plastic products with “biodegradable” claims will safely break down in a typical commercial composting facility. www.bpiworld.org
	Chlorine-free Products Association is a nonprofit organization that certifies chlorine-free products such as copy paper, envelopes and tissue products. www.chlorinefreeproducts.org
	EcoLogo is Canada’s environmental product certification program. It has issued standards for over 300 product categories (such as flooring, paint, electricity, cleaners, office equipment, and paper products), many of which are sold in the United States. www.ecologo.org/en/
	Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) is an independent program that certifies “green” electronic equipment such as computers, monitors and laptops. www.epeat.net
	ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the US Department of Energy and US Environmental Protection Agency that allows its label to be used on energy-efficient products (such as light fixtures, CFLs, LEDs, appliances and office equipment). www.energystar.gov
	E-Stewards is a program that certifies recyclers of electronic equipment that adhere to the highest standard of environmental responsibility and worker protection. The e-Stewards Standard for Responsible Recycling and Reuse of Electronic Equipment® can be found at http://e-stewards.org/certificationoverview/
	Forest Stewardship Council certifies lumber and other building products made with sustainably harvested wood or that reduce wood consumption. www.fscus.org
	Green-e is a labeling program established by the nonprofit organization, Center for Resource Solutions, which verifies that electricity has been generated using renewable sources such as solar and wind. www.green-e.org
	Greenguard is a nonprofit organization which certifies products that improve indoor air quality. Find products (such as flooring, paints, furniture, and cleaning products) with low VOCs and other emissions. Some are certified for use near children. www.greenguard.org
	Green Seal is a nonprofit organization that sets standards for products (such as janitorial cleaners, floor strippers, and paints) and certifies products that meet those standards. www.greenseal.org



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Questions? Comments?

(Open phone line by pressing *6)

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Webcast Commentator Jerry Lamping: notes

District results from implementing US EPA's voluntary Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools program, along with green purchasing, and classroom assessments, include:

- six-fold decrease in VOC levels in classrooms;
- lowered reliever inhaler usage by kids with asthma;
- 0.8 % increase in Total Average Daily Attendance which increased state funding by over \$2 million; and,
- 30% reduction in custodial operating costs, with both lower supply costs and reduced payroll costs due to fewer work absences.

See his report at <http://bit.ly/12axcGX>



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**Read the Coalition for Healthier Schools' policy agenda,
attend regular conference calls and meetings,
and or receive free online News:
JOIN at www.healthyschools.org**

**For more information about Healthy Purchasing, email
info@healthyschools.org**